

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FPC-01 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /203 W

----- 047329

R 061530Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1714

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 702

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, GR

SUBJECT: FUEL SHORTAGE IN NORTHERN GREECE

REF: THESSALONIKI 696

"ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF NOVEMBER 6 CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON FUEL OIL SHORTAGE UNDER HEADLINE, "THESSALONIKI EXHAUSTS PETROLEUM STOCKS". ACCORDING TO REPORT, LOCAL OUTLETS UNABLE TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND AND FORCED TO CUT DOWN SUPPLIES TO AGRICULTURAL AREAS SUCH AS ALEXANDRIA, PLATY, KILKIS, AND CHALKIDIKI AT TIME WHEN IT ESSENTIAL TO PLOW AND SEED FOR COMING YEAR. DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED IN SUPPLY OF DIESEL FUEL FOR BUSES AND INDUSTRIAL VEHICLES. DURING PEAK DEMAND NOVEMBER 3, 900 TRUCKLOADS OF FUEL OIL SOLD IN THESSALONIKI, COMPARED TO USUAL NOVEMBER CONSUMPTION OF 500 TRUCKLOADS PER DAY.

COMMENT: ESSO REFINERY MANAGER GEORGOPOULOS CONFIRMED TO CONGEN THAT PLANT, IN FACT, LOADED 908 TRUCKS NOVEMBER 3
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(4,000 TON DIESEL FUEL),

NEARLY 100 HIGHER THAN PREVIOUS DAILY RECORD. IN SHORT
TERM, GEORGOPOULOS SCRIBES PANIC TO LEAK FROM ATHENS OF
GOVT PLANS TO INCREASE FUEL OIL PRICE FROM 2,200 DRS PER
TON TO 3,000 DRS. WHILE SITUATION WILL EASE IF PRICE
RAISED, LONG-TERM PROBLEM IS CRUDE SUPPLY. ESSO CLAIMS
STOCKS ON HAND TO MEET ALL GREEK DEMANDS THROUGH DEC 1973
BUT IS PESSEMISTIC RE 1974 ESSO PLANNING TO HONOR CONTRACT
FOR SUPPLY OF 2 MILLION TONS PER YEAR AND ESTIMATES
ADDITIONAL 2.5 MILLION TONS AVAILABLE TO GREECE
FROM OTHER SOURCES. GIVEN ESTIMATED 1974 DEMAND FOR
8 MILLION TONS, SHORTFALL WILL BE 3.5 MILLION TONS OWING
TO FAILURE OF PLANS FOR NEW REFINERY. GEORGOPOULOS ADDED
THAT EVEN ESSO COULD NOT GUARANTEE TO MEET CONTRACT IF
ARAB SUPPLIERS CONTINUE TO REDUCE OUTPUT AND
PREDICTED THAT FUEL RATIONING INEVITABLE IN GREECE IF
COMPROMISE NOT REACHED SOON WITH SUPPLIERS.
JACKSON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 06 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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